

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 09212 121205Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09212

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: EAIR, UK
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: UK REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER ON
DUAL DESIGNATION

REF: STATE 148149

1. I RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH EDMUND DELL THIS MORNING, UNDERSCORING THE PRESIDENT'S STRONGLY-HELD BELIEF IN THE NEED FOR A LIBERAL AVIATION REGIME AND HIS COMMITMENT TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO SEEK APPROVAL OF THE BOSTON DUAL SERVICE. THE POINT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT WE COULD MAKE NEW OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO THE UK IN RETURN. I INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT WANT TO TELEPHONE THE PRIME MINISTER TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

2. DELL SAID THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER OF RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT REMAINS THE BRITISH POSITION. HE BRIEFLY WENT OVER THE UK'S SUBSTANTIVE VIEWS, NOTING IN PARTICULAR THAT THE U.S. "MUST SURELY UNDERSTAND" THAT LESS THAN A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE WE SIGNED THE NEW BERMUDA AGREEMENT. DELL MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE SEES THE PRESENT SITUATION AS A POLITICAL PROBLEM CREATED BY THE U.S. HE SAID BRITAIN WANTS TO BE COOPERATIVE, BUT, LIKE THE U.S., HAS ITS OWN PROBLEMS AND COSTS TO CONSIDER. HE SPECIFI-
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CALLY NOTED THE NEED TO SHIFT SIGNIFICANT CAPACITY TO GATWICK AIRPORT AND THE FACT THAT BERMUDA II CONDITIONS REGARDING CAPACITY LIMITATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN MET IN THE BOSTON CASE.

3. I URGED ON HIM OUR PROPOSAL TO MAINTAIN BOSTON FLIGHTS (AFTER THE INITIATION OF LOS ANGELES FLIGHTS ON

JUNE 15) WHILE WE HOLD EARLY CONSULTATIONS, HOPEFULLY DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 19. DELL RESPONDED THAT SUCH DUAL DESIGNATION IN THE ABSENCE OF AN UNDERSTANDING WOULD CLEARLY PUT THE U.S. IN BREACH OF THE AGREEMENT, AND HE SAID HE COULD NOT SEE THE UK ACCEPTING ANY UNILATERAL U.S. MOVE.

4. DELL REITERATED THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH HE VIEWS THE MATTER AND SAID HE WOULD LET US KNOW SOON THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO OUR LATEST PROPOSALS AND TO OUR REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS DURING WEEK OF JUNE 19.

BREWSTER

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